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TROUBLE COMING BETWEEN TWO HEALTH DEPARTMENTS OPERATING IN HONOLULU

(From Wednesday's Advertiser.)

A storm now gathering over the health authorities of Honolulu, whether territorial or city, is threatening to break and there is a possibility of it doing so this morning on the floor of the senate in the discussion of the poi bill. Aided by members of the board of supervisors, displeased with the way the city health department is being conducted, and also by the displeasure of the mayor's office, not altogether a political one, there is a move on to clear up for once and all the dual health authority existing on this island and either place everything in the hands of the city or everything in the hands of the board of health. If Eben Low had been home the chances are that the coming storm would have broken somewhere long ago.

When the poi bill came before the senate yesterday morning for second reading, it was deferred again until this morning on motion of Senator Fairchild. Fairchild has picked up inadvertently one of the loose ends of the petty political game that is being played in sanitary circles and as he has proved himself a man interested enough in his work as a legislator to find out things for himself, the symptoms indicate that there will be trouble for someone this morning.

Fairchild received a letter from one of the parties who are doing their very best without coming out in the open to squelch the poi bill which is now in the senate. He afterwards found out that the "information" contained in the letter on which he was asked to base his actions was wrong. Consequently he asked for another day's time on the matter and it is probable that when he rises to speak today there will be some facts and figures of the Fairchild brand.

Jealousy or Worse.

Fairchild complains that there has not been the openness regarding health affairs that there should have been. That there is an inside feud between the board of health and City Physician Mackall is one of the facts that he has discovered, but during all the time that the board of health officials have been before the senate, there has been no letter or anything else produced to place this feud on record, which has left the lawmakers up in the air in dividing reasons.

Fairchild yesterday expressed as his opinion that the statutes made the board of health supreme in the Territory on health matters and that the county departments were deputed under it. If this view is sustained and maintained the city health department is liable to come out at the small end in the coming scramble for cover.

Mackall is against the poi bill on the plea of dual authority in the administration of the law and has asked that the bill be killed and it is fairly certain that he has been responsible for a greater part of the suspicious attitude which certain members of the senate entertained.

The board of health, on the other hand, is not giving the city poi ordinance the dignified consideration that a real live city ordinance ought to have. The administration of it so far has been done in such a manner that the details of it are liable to become public property through the senate records before long and it is also possible that they will be forced through the senate after all in order to give the board of health a censor's privileges.

Poi Joy Rides.

It is well known that Harry Murray, Chairman Kruger of the sanitation committee of the supervisors, Doctor Mackall and Attorney Atkinson of the Chinese poi shops went the rounds of the shops one morning after two of them at least, had been up all night. Mackall claims that they visited thirty shops, but Kruger's recollection only went back as far as six of them and in an interview gave them all a clean bill of health with lovely impartiality.

A few days after the poi ordinance was passed by the supervisors, Mackall and Atkinson and probably others went around again, on an inspection tour with the purpose of deciding which of the shops might be given a permit to operate. Out of the twenty-one poi shops which the board of health condemned, a competent inspection and indeed with the assistance of the police, Sheriff Jarrett having vivid recollections of the rights he saw, Mackall permitted nineteen to open. These were places which Food Commission Blanchard, backed by the regular inspectors and officials of the board of health declared could not be opened, not only on account of their condition, but because their locality was such that their condition could not be improved.

Following upon the generous dispensation of poi shop permits, the mayor's office for once asserted its right as the central executive office of the city of Honolulu and protested against the attorney for the Chinese poi dealers interpreting the meaning of the poi ordinance designed for the protection of the people. No one blames Atkinson, but indeed commend him for the faithfulness to his mission.

Bouquets Fading.

Mayor Fern is also spelling a number of the bouquets given Mackall, who has posed as the introducer of the ordinance which finally became law. It seems, however, that the original ordinance gave the city physician the sole right to decide whether or not the poi shops were fit to open and to give them licenses. This clause was quickly modified by those not willing to see such a possible element of civic righteousness installed into the city health department.

The food commissioner was then called in and went over the law with Secretary Hivesburg, with the result that it was brought nearly up to the same clause as that which was and is being away in the senate.

Poi Is Not All.

But the storm referred to is not concerned with poi. Poi is just the medium by which it is struggling to light. The public extends back to the date when the city physician lost the discretionary job, although at that time it was an exceptionally dignified right of belief that came from the city physician when the news was broached to him.

According to the data which the health insurgents among the supervisors are gathering and which may be turned over to the senate to use in regard to the poi bill, the original agreement between the city and county and the board of health created the office of city physician at \$150, of which the city was to pay half and the Territory the other half. When it was put into practice the city paid it all, while the board of health supplied the medicines.

Then came the kick which finally resulted in the board of health deciding to put its own dispensary man in, as the inroads on the medicine chest were so great, and as reported, so greatly beyond the natural demands of the work that the board decided that it was cheaper to dispense with the luxury of a city physician dispenser.

Knocking Inspectors.

After that commenced the building up of the city health department proper, with the system of meat and fish inspectors that placed fourteen men under his orders, all of whom are recognized petty political influences in their respective precincts. This list of employees is incidental to a payroll of \$1400 to \$1600 a month, but, say the insurgents in question, the public gets nothing in return for the money invested.

The necessity which the board of health recently found to clean out the fish market thoroughly has already been commented on as an act not complimentary to John Holt and A. Woodward, the fish inspectors. It is also stated that during that examination, which was at the time demanded by public safety, Holt's little office was found to be one of the dirtiest places in the market.

Doctor Mackall stated that the board of health merely flushed the market out, that they didn't clean it and that the market didn't need a cleaning. There is no record, however, of it ever having been cleaned before. Doctor Mackall stated also that he did not care how much some of his inspectors were roasted, "that he wanted to get rid of some of them himself, as the present system of appointing did not permit him to get good men."

All fish arriving in the market is auctioned off almost invariably before five o'clock in the morning, against which fact is placed the report that the fish inspectors never get there before eight or nine, if even then. The same criticism has been applied to the "outside" fish and meat inspectors, with, of course, several exceptions, and these criticisms are now due for an airing. Several of the men on Mackall's payroll have been on the police black books occasionally. One of them, indeed, got into a drunken row with a police officer in the fish market and had to be knocked down before he could be brought to see reason. Several other inspectors were fired out of the board of health service several years ago as grossly incompetent.

Question of Duty.

As if these matters were not enough to satisfy the critics of the department, which numbers the entire Democratic side of the city government, as well as three or four of the Republican heads of several departments, are jumping on Mackall for his interpretation of his duties. Mackall is awarded a total salary of \$375 a month and not the \$225 usually supposed. His duties are supposed to be to treat the indigent sick \$25 of the above amount being for medicines, but the books of the auditor show that during February \$1131 and during January twelve hundred odd dollars were awarded to the Queen's Hospital alone, besides other large sums to the Kapiolani Maternity Home and the Children's Hospital. An average of sixty-eight patients are treated at the Queen's Hospital alone per month and it is thought that an inspection of the books will show that not all of these are supposed to come under the head of indigent sick, although the city pays the bill.

These hospital bills have been growing steadily though slowly for the past year. Eben Low is said to be on record, but is not present to speak for himself, but his fellow kickers certainly are, to the effect that Mackall is being paid to treat the indigent sick himself, at their homes, and not send every person to the hospital as soon as discovered.

Police at Outs.

And the police are kicking also. When the division was made by which the police surgeon, Doctor Emerson, was to perform autopsies and do other work, Sheriff Jarrett tried to get \$50 more a month for Emerson, who was then getting \$75. Mackall, however, who also claimed to be getting extra work, stepped in and got \$25 of this amount, Doctor Emerson getting the other half.

The whole police surgeon system is now the target for further criticism. It is claimed that to perform the duties attendant upon the office the police surgeon should be in the police ambulance every time it goes to pick up an injured man, when, instead, three husky trusties go along to throw him in a stretcher and make it a matter of speed in getting to the hospital. It is stated that several lives could have been saved had a physician been in the wagon giving first aid on the way to the hospital. It is held that those duties are properly the part of the city physician, who might have a deputy if he needed it, but at any rate the need of a system of caring for the injured is strongly felt.

The Cost.

Doctor Mackall, besides his salary of \$375, is allowed \$45 for house rent which is paid on a warrant made out to him personally; \$25 for medicines and \$100 for maintenance out of which he pays for his automobile. The warrants for February show that \$2180 was paid to the Royal Hawaiian garage alone for auto repairs on Mackall's car and for January the repair bill was higher than that. Four or five chauffeurs also appear on the books drawing warrants on Mackall's order. Another bill was paid out for the signs which carefully announce the office of the city physician and there are other items of expense that are asserted to be entirely lawful.

Behind Mackall's expenses, the fol-

BOY BANDITS ARE TAKEN WITH LOOT

A band of true boy bandits were arrested last night by Chief McIndiffe, after uncovering a remarkable series of robberies that has extended over the past few months. Neither of the two boys are over nine years of age and yet part of their loot consists of twenty-five watches, several of them valuable, three or four cameras, two revolvers, two gold bracelets, a searchlight and several smaller articles.

The cameras were stolen from the Honolulu Photo Supply Company, but the owners of the watches have not been located. Thirteen of the watches have been recovered, the boys claiming that they sold ten to a Japanese, who, however, denies that he received more than two or three. He has been charged with receiving stolen goods, under the new law just passed, Act 35 of the Session Laws of 1911.

The boys tell a perfectly frank story of their robberies, telling of their deeds in a most matter of fact manner, with neither tears nor braggadocio. They will be taken before Judge Whitney in the juvenile court and probably sent to the reform school.

SUGAR TRUST WILL FIGHT FOR LIFE

NEW YORK, April 3.—Additional demurrers to the government's suit to dissolve the American Sugar Refining Company and its subsidiaries as an alleged illegal combination in restraint of interstate trade and foreign commerce, in violation of the Sherman anti-trust law, were filed today in the United States circuit court by the Sterling Company, Morgan County Construction Company, Alameda Sugar Company, Union Sugar Company, Continental Sugar Company, Great Western Sugar Company, Scotts Bluff Sugar Company, Billings Sugar Company, John L. Howard and Chester S. Morey.

The American Sugar Refining Company submitted a general demurrer for all the defendants and a general demurrer for itself. It asserts that divers other persons are not mentioned in the petition.

The demurrer names in this connection Charles G. Harrison, Theodore A. Havemeyer, Claus Spreckels, if living, or their legal representatives, if any of them is deceased. It is asserted they should be made parties to the action.

Mrs. L. W. Havemeyer, widow of Henry C. Havemeyer, and her children, Horace Havemeyer, Adeline H. Frelinghuysen and Electra H. Webb, difference between what is required to content the American or European and the oriental, Porto Rican or Filipino workman has of itself a tendency to set so low a standard of living and wages as to discourage the 'Americanization' of the islands, so far as the introduction of white labor is an element of such 'Americanization.'

Assisted Immigration.

"During the past two years the territorial board of immigration has assisted Russians, none of whom would probably have been admitted to the mainland owing to their being assisted and without funds. I understand that very few, if any, of these assisted aliens ever return to the country of their origin (except those who have been returned by the government, the sugar planters or the steamship companies). I was told by Doctor Clark that fully sixty per cent of all white aliens brought to the islands had departed for the Pacific Coast. I am quite positive that at least seventy-five per cent of the Russians, as rapidly as they could raise sufficient money to pay their transportation, went to San Francisco—most of such money coming from their relatives in Russia or from friends in the United States. In nearly every instance they arrived penniless on the mainland and possibly became either a public or private charge, the United States government being helpless in the matter, as the aliens could not be declared their status having been fixed on admission to Hawaii."

There has been a great deal said regarding misstatements made to the Russians by the representatives of the territorial immigration board at Harbin and other points whence the aliens came. From personal observations, and after talking with the Russians, their representatives and the chairman of the board, I am of the impression that there was no desire or intention on the board's part to make any misrepresentation, and if Mr. Perelstous, their agent, did so, it was without their knowledge or consent.

The Japanese Strike.

"The sugar growers have not entirely recovered from the scare given them by the strike of less than two years ago, and would like to bring into the islands large numbers of Filipinos, or other cheap labor, to create a surplus, so that in the event of any future misunderstanding they (the planters) would be able to procure the necessary help without being obliged to pay any increase in wages."

"I was informed that during the strike, the planters were able to procure, without any great effort, a sufficient number of natives, whites and others, to handle their crops in a satisfactory manner, but were compelled to pay \$1.50 per day for all male help so employed. However, as soon as peace was restored, the strikers were reinstated in their former positions as their wages were only about forty-seven per cent of those paid the strikebreakers. I was informed that the Hawaiians who had been employed during the strike offered to work steadily if the managers would pay them \$1.25 per day, which offer was refused. The men then made an offer of their services for \$1 per day. This, too, the planters declined to consider."

"The planters' managers claim that the men who were employed to take the strikers' places did not perform work as satisfactorily as did their former employees. The native Hawaiian is a satisfactory workman, but has reason to be a plantation laborer on account of the low wages and the high cost of living and is now employed exclusively in connection with public long shore and dock work."

"Regarding the so-called 'immortalized' sugar cane, there seems to be a consensus of

opinion that the plan as applied was not a success.

"Regarding the small farmer, it seems to me that he could be attracted to seek a home on the islands, with proper encouragement, such as government control of water supply for irrigation purposes, the furnishing of seed, etc."

Conclusion.

"I do not see how it will be possible to Americanize Hawaii unless some substantial encouragement is offered to Americans and desirable Europeans. It does seem to me that if the planters would give their earnest cooperation to the territorial immigration board in the efforts it is putting forth to stimulate European immigration, it would no doubt go a long way toward solving the labor problem, and at the same time gradually would bring the standard of wages and living more nearly into equality with that existing on the mainland. One of the chief elements of this cooperation should consist of an increase in wages. Improvement in housing on some of the plantations is very much needed, and plantation stores should not be run for profit."

With one little amendment, regarding the number of extra children necessary for the salary of an extra teacher, the senate bill to provide for the maintenance of the public schools passed third reading in the house yesterday with only one dissenting vote, that of Moanani of Hawaii, who did not like the amendment.

The bill now goes to the senate for concurrence in the amendment, which, if agreed to, will pass the bill to the Governor, and another chapter in legislative history will be closed.

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"The total number of teachers, including supervisors and principals, who may be continuously employed by the department in any one year shall not exceed one for every twenty-five (25) pupils enrolled in the public schools during the preceding year, provided, however, that the monthly payroll of teachers, supervisors and principals shall not exceed \$45,000 per month plus \$50 additional for every thirty-five (35) children of school age added to the enrollment of the public schools after June 30, 1911."

Representative Marcellino offered an amendment to the amendment as a compromise, making it thirty children, but this was tabled.

Representative Long made a warm defense of the bill as it stood, opposing the amendment. Rice and Kelihi both spoke for the amendment.

The vote on the amendment was twenty-one for and nine against.

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"Hardly the gentleman from the fourth does not oppose the limit," declared Rice. "It is only a question of putting a limit on the board of education. Certainly he cannot be opposed to limits," and there was a laugh.

Upon third reading the bill carried as amended, twenty-one to nine.

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KEEFE'S REPORT ON LABOR CONDITIONS IS NOW PUBLIC

A copy of the report of Special Commissioner Daniel J. Keefe to the secretary of commerce and labor, on labor conditions in Hawaii, was received by the local immigration officials in yesterday's mail. The commissioner opens his report by stating that his mission was "to ascertain, if possible, how industrial conditions in Hawaii could be improved so as to attract American and desirable European immigrants, particularly to the sugar plantations, the sugar growers having repeatedly stated that they were desirous of Americanizing the islands and bringing them up to a higher standard."

After giving the details of conferences held by him with the planters' association at various times, he says: "Again, on December 17, I attended a meeting at Hilo and there listened to reassertions of their statements, also to expressions of the belief that the homestead system, which the planters had attempted to put into practice (but which failed) would no doubt be a good step in the direction of Americanizing Hawaii. From my own observation, as well as from information received, it seems to me that the planters are either insincere in their declared desires or that their efforts are at cross purposes with their ambitions. If the people, particularly the sugar planters, wish to bring the islands up to the standard of an American territory, it will be necessary to recognize the important fact that some substantial inducement must be offered to labor for both field and mill work in the way of increased wages and better working conditions; also, if the plantation stores are to be continued they should not be operated for profit, as seems to be the present system."

Wages.

"I do not believe that wages should be advanced to a point where the sugar growers could not continue in business and receive a fair profit. However, I am inclined to believe that wages could be increased and the planters still receive a good return on his investment. Also, a great many of the homes furnished employees could be improved so as to make them more attractive, at a nominal cost to the plantation owner. If the company stores, too, were under one general management good results would no doubt accrue."

"The standards of living of the American, as well as the European, are very much higher than those of the oriental, the Porto Rican and the Filipino, whose mode of living is simple and whose wants are few. This difference between what is required to content the American or European and the oriental, Porto Rican or Filipino workman has of itself a tendency to set so low a standard of living and wages as to discourage the 'Americanization' of the islands, so far as the introduction of white labor is an element of such 'Americanization.'

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